



FIRST AND BEST IN ILLUSTRATED HORROR

# CREEPY

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MAGAZINE

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## INCREDIBLE SPECIAL ISSUE



# WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD CREEPY?

**E**ver since the first issue of *Creepy* hit the shelves, it has been the true godfather of horror comics. Uncle Ernie, who he is, where he hails from, and who unearthed him, what follows is a ghost-sized history of the world's favorite horror comics' host.

The first announcement of an all-new black and white horror comic book called *CREEPY* appeared in the December 1964 *Famous Monsters* #79. For his very first appearance before the reading public, *CREEPY* announced that the publisher of *Famous Monsters*—a guy named Jim Warren—“is now my prisoner!” As you read this he is chained to the walls of my dungeon, wondering what diabolical fiend I have in store for you readers of *Famous Monsters & Monster World*. And now my little friend, I am coming after you! And who am I? Hah, hah. My name is *CREEPY* of course!

Although *CREEPY* started as a quarterly that is four issues a year, with the second issue it went bimonthly due to its incredibly popular reception at newsstands in Transylvania. *CREEPY* is now a healthy 8-years old.

Although there was a long and moldy list of applicants to host



The year was 1964 and a new comics magazine called *CREEPY* was born.



From the wreckage the monsters left in their wake came a small baby named *CREEPY*. From Angelo Torres' "Monster Rally" *CREEPY* #4.

The new comics magazine Uncle *CREEPY* a blood-shot forty-year-old and balding ghoul was chosen. Says *CREEPY*'s publisher, "We wanted the idea of a horror comics host a la the EC concept. EC (Entertaining Comics) published a line of horror comics in the early 1950's each with its own host to introduce and end each creepie tale similar to *CREEPY*."

The idea of a horror host began during radio heyday when sinister voices like those of Arch Oboler and Nelson Dinwiddie introduced such terrifying shows as "Lights Out" and "Suspense."

Asked to draw several hosts among the motley crew applying for the job, ex-EC cartoonist Jack Davis found *CREEPY* most to his liking. As *CREEPY* himself explained on the letters page of *CREEPY* #5, "Having me pose in the flesh is a big brain strain for just one artist so nearly everyone on the staff has been forced to render my wretched likeness although the largest number have been done by Jack [DEMONS Davis]."

While *CREEPY* has appeared as a character in several stories, even one which pretends to be his origin story, he denies all of them. "Monster Rally" in *CREEPY* #4 (reprinted in the

*CREEPY* #375 ANNALS), written by Archie Goodwin and illustrated by Angelo Torres, tells the story of a mad doctor whose work on assorted monster-types explodes in his face and results in the birth of *CREEPY*.

In the story "Home Is Where" from *CREEPY* #22, two hoods break into a cunio-shop only to find themselves face to face with a rogues' gallery of zombies, maniacs and ghouls. Artist Pat Boyette cleverly revealed the facade of the cunio shop in the last panel with Uncle



His time had come and there was no way to turn back the clock on little Cousin Ernie.

die *CREEPY* sit in the shadows, knife in hand and a host to partake of roast pig for dinner. Said *CREEPY*, "What a cry the boys couldn't stay for dinner after dropping in like that! Unwittingly, the hoods had broken into *CREEPY*'s private domain. Ron Parker scripted the piece."

In "Surprise Package" from *CREEPY* #27, scripted by Bill Freebairt and drawn by Ernie Colone, *CREEPY* and Ernie were interplanetary fugitives who traveled through space with a cargo of Earth's more familiar monsters in search of a new world. "You thought maybe we were from the world," asked *CREEPY* at the end. "Wit hits!"



*CREEPY* makes a rare appearance before the public in this 1964 "Bulwinkle" comic strip from *CREEPY* #3. Art and story by Al Kilgore.

Although *CREEPY* complained about Ernie ("Don't let Falso fool you. His fairy tales couldn't curdle milk, let alone blood!"), the idea behind the publication of Ernie was to horrify readers with 12 issues of *CREEPY* and Ernie a year instead of just 6 issues of *CREEPY*. As *CREEPY* explained in "OF CHUBBY Can when your appetite during the off months into its time for me to come through with the genuine ghoulish goods."

Welaunched Ernie explains Warren, "because we thought *CREEPY* ought to have an adversary. The Laurel and Hardy syndrom always appealed to me. *CREEPY* and Ernie are like Boris Karloff and Peter Lorre or the Tylon and Persphere from the World's Fair in 1939."

The Tylon a seven hundred foot tall needle-sharped, edifice, and the Persphere a 200 foot high globe, represented the "wonders of technology" for the world of 1939. In Warren's concept the Tylon is *CREEPY* and the Persphere is Ernie.

"What's in store for the big *CREEPY* you ask? A 50th Anniversary issue, for one thing, just two issues away from now!"

Mo  
Que  
the  
Tales  
Creeper  
Monsters  
They will be a  
Tales From  
Creeper  
most horrific  
all from CRE  
While you're wa  
the movie  
might want to be  
first in your ma  
team with a gro  
CREEPY ring CR  
PY's loathsome ca  
remain a little m  
about the big and  
new trend, or I c  
long.  
Perhaps you're re



*Creepy* as the host to assorted ghoules.

production of Jack Davis' fantastic cover of *CREEPY* #1.

Or "The Best of *CREEPY*" (issue #10) featuring 100 panels of mind-bending horror from this rare early issue of *CREEPY*!

All true *CREEPY* followers, belong to the *CREEPY* Fan Club and own an 8x10 "Full Color" portrait of *CREEPY* by the masterful Frank Frazetta, plus big 3 "Full Color" and Official Membership Card.

Thus ends the stirring saga of a Rumanian ghoulman who hit the big time by hosting the world's most makable horror magazine!





# CREEPY

**CONTENTS SPECIAL**  
**ISSUE No. 48**  
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**4 THE COFFIN OF DRACULA** The  
 terrifying sequel to Bram Stoker's vampire  
 classic "Dracula!" An epic-making horror  
 classic from CREEPY #'s 8 & 9.

**20 THE CASTLE ON THE MOOR**  
 Tour an ancient castle with Lord Everleigh as  
 your host but beware the stuff of legend all  
 around you! From CREEPY #9.

**26 MOON CITY** The moon awaits, a rich  
 and fertile land, brimming with promise for the  
 first of Earth's colonizers. From CREEPY #4.

**32 SWAMPED!** The dark and savage world  
 of murky Bayou country proves to be a not-so-  
 perfect camouflage for a killer. From CREEPY  
 #3.

**40 THUMBS DOWN!** Travel back to the  
 glorious days of the Roman Empire when a  
 man's fate hung on the position of a thumb!  
 From CREEPY #20.

**46 THE COSMIC ALL** A fantastic voy-  
 age deep into the future with the first inter-  
 stellar star-craft as it nears Alpha Centauri.  
 From CREEPY #38.

**54 DRINK DEEP!** Cruise the Caribbean on  
 the luxury yacht of Reggie Beardsley as he  
 sets sail on the winds of terror! From CREEPY  
 #7.

**74 THE ADVENTURE OF THE  
 GERMAN STUDENT** Blood-curdling  
 terror from the pen of Washington Irving.  
 Walk the rain-washed streets of sheer horror.  
 From CREEPY #15.



DESCEND INTO THE DUNGEON, SLAYMATES... I'VE GOT A TERROR-IFIC TREAT FOR YOU! A SHRIEKING SEQUEL TO BRAM STOKER'S HORROR HALLMARK, "DRACULA"! GRIP YOUR WOODEN STAKES TIGHTLY AND WATCH YOUR JUGULAR VEIN. IN THIS BONUS-LENGTH SNOCKER, YOU'LL WITNESS THE OPENING OF...

# The COFFIN of DRACULA!



I THINK, LORD VARNER, IT IS NOT GOOD THIS THING WE DO!

DON'T BE A FOOL! COME WITH ME!

**LONDON!** THE NINETEENTH CENTURY DRAWS TO A CLOSE... YET SUPERSTITION AND LEGEND CONTINUE TO PERSIST... AND EVEN IN A SPRAWLING CITY, SOME MEN STILL WALK THE PATH OF DARKNESS!

ART BY REED CRANDALL / STORY BY ARCHIE GOODWIN

THE ROS'S GAMPRRESS MADE THE KEYS SLIPPERY IN ADRIAN WARNEY'S HAND... HIS INSIDES WERE WARM FROM DRINKING EARLIER, AND HE COULD NOT SUPPRESS A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT... ANTICIPATION...

AFTER ALL, ROSLAK, IT WAS YOU WHO TOLD ME ABOUT THIS... BESIDES, YOU'LL BE WELL PAID!



JUNK... BRIC-A-BRAC... ALL WAITING TO BE SOLD BY MY UNCLE'S AUCTION HOUSE! THOUGHTFUL OF THE OLD BOY TO DIE... NOW IT'S ALL MINE!



HOLD THE LANTERN HIGHER... STOP SHAKING! YOU HELPED THE FIRM BRING THIS FROM EUROPE... WHY BE FRIGHTENED NOW?

THIS IS NOT A THING TO APPROACH IN DARKNESS!



COME! THE FRUITS OF THIS LITTLE JOURNEY WILL BE JUST THE TOUCH TO ENLIVEN MY RATHER DRAB COSTUME PARTY...



INCLUDING ... THIS!



THERE! I CAN READ THE NAMEPLATE...





UNCLE WILL TURN OVER IN HIS GRAVE! HE BOUGHT A CASKET FULL OF DIRT... AND STRANGE GRAY DUST!

P-PLEASE, LORD VARNEY! LET US LEAVE! THIS WAS NOT THE COFFIN OF AN ORDINARY MAN...



SINISTER LEGEND EH? MARVELOUS! MY GUESTS WILL SHRIEK WHEN THEY SEE ME IN THIS... A COFFIN FOR A COSTUME!

N-NO... DON'T...



PERFECT FIT! AS THOUGH IT WERE MADE FOR ME...

LORD VARNEY! GET OUT OF THE COFFIN... BEFORE IT IS TOO LA--

...AND I FOR IT! MAKES ME FEEL DIFFERENTLY THAN I'VE EVER FELT IN MY LIFE! STRONGER... MORE POWERFUL... COMPLETELY...



... TRANSFORMED! KOSLAK! LEAN CLOSER!

NOOOOOO-O-O-O-O

ELSEWHERE IN LONDON, THERE WAS GAIETY, LAUGHTER, MUSIC, AND FOR SOME ... A SENSE OF FOREBODING!

JONATHAN, I WISH WE'D NEVER ACCEPTED THE INVITATION... THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT LORD WARNEY I'VE NEVER LIKED!

YOU'D THINK HE COULD AT LEAST ATTEND HIS OWN PARTY! IF I HADN'T BEEN SOLICITOR FOR HIS UNCLE'S ESTATE, WE'D NEVER HAVE COME!

MR. AND MRS. HARKER!



YOU MUST SEE! ADRIAN IS JUST TOO CLEVER... HE'S INSTALLED A REAL GYPSY FORTUNE TELLER IN THE LIBRARY... MARVELOUS!

PERHAPS SHE CAN FORETELL WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR HOST, EH, MINA?



COME CLOSER! PEEK INTO THE GLOBE... THEREIN LIES ALL TRUTHS... ALL SECRETS...

CAN IT REVEAL WHERE MY NEXT CLIENT WILL COME FROM?



DO NOT MOCK, JONATHAN HARKER! YOU AND YOUR WIFE MINA LEAST OF ALL! YOU HAVE BOTH FELT THE POWERS OF THE UNKNOWN!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT US?



LOOK CLOSELY! GAZE DEEP! I SEE WHITE SNOW FALLING HEAVILY... I HEAR THE HOWLING OF WOLVES... I SEE GYPSIES PUSHING A WAGON STRAINED WITH A GREAT WEIGHT... HEAVY WITH THE WEIGHT OF A ... COFFIN!



"I SEE FOUR MEN SURROUND AND STOP THE WAGON ... YOUNG LORD GOLDALMINGS, DR. JOHN SEWARD, AN AMERICAN, CHINCEY MORRIS, AND YOU, JONATHAN HARKER!"



"IN THE DISTANCE, I SEE OTHER EYES WATCHING... THE OLD DOCTOR, VAN HELSING, AND A WOMAN, BEAUTIFUL BUT TAINTED BY UNSPEAKABLE EVIL... YOU, ANNA HARKER!"



"NOW I SEE FIGHTING, VIOLENT AND DEADLY AGAINST THE SETTING SUN. YOU AND THE AMERICAN, MORTALLY WOUNDED, GRASP THE COFFIN ... STRAIN TO GET IT OFF THE WAGON ..."

"THE COFFIN IS OPEN! INSIDE... THE PRINCE OF DIAMONDS! HE GRINS IN TRIUMPH... THE SUN IS DOWN, HIS POWERS ARE FULL!"



"THEN, THE SHEEP AND FLASH OF STEEL AND SWIFT ARE OF THE WOODEN SHAFT!"

"I HEAR YOUR SOBS OF RELIEF AS THE VAMPIRE'S CURSE IS LIFTED... I SEE, ALMOST IN THE DRAWING OF A BREATH, A WHOLE BODY CRUMBLE INTO GRAY DUST INSIDE THE COFFIN... I SEE THE DEATH OF... COUNT DRACULA!"



NO CRYSTAL BALL COULD  
TELL ALL THAT! HOW DO  
YOU KNOW WHAT TRANS-  
PIRED, OLD WOMAN?

PLEASE... I MEANT  
ONLY TO FRIGHTEN  
A LITTLE! MY  
HUSBAND, KOSLAK,  
TOLD ME... HE WAS  
ONE OF THE GYPSIES  
ON THE WAGON!

ALL THE COUNT'S ESTATE WAS GATHERED  
FOR AUCTION... MY HUSBAND AND MANY  
OTHER GYPSIES WERE HIRED TO HELP  
TRANSPORT EVERYTHING... EVEN THE GREAT  
CASKET!

DRACULA'S COFFIN  
IN ENGLAND?

JONATHAN!  
LOOK!!



MY COSTUME IS MORE  
SUCCESSFUL THAN I  
DREAMED POSSIBLE...

BUT--  
I--

YOU CAN'T  
REFUSE YOUR  
HOST!

...MY ONLY  
INTENTION WAS  
TO SEE IF THE  
BEAUTIFUL MRS.  
HARKER WILL  
GRANT A DANCE  
TO HER HOST!







AS DIRECTOR OF AN INSANE ASYLUM, DR. JOHN SEWARD HAD LEARNED TO CONTROL HIS EMOTIONS. YET LISTENING TO JONATHAN HARKER RECOUNT THE EVENTS OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, HE COULD NOT SUPPRESS A RISING TIDE OF FEAR AND DREAD... FEELINGS HE HAD NOT EXPERIENCED SINCE HE AND THE OTHERS HAD MATCHED WITS, AND SOULS, AGAINST COUNT DRACULA!

"YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I COULD TURN TO, JOHN... AND DR. VAN HELSING! THANK GOD, YOU WERE VISITING!"

"CHANCE VISIT DID NOT BRING ME FROM AMSTERDAM, FRIEND JONATHAN, BUT DREADFUL PURPOSE!"



"SEVERAL WITNESSES CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN STRANGE SPECTRAL FIGURE NEAR SEACOAST AT DUSK AND DAWN... COINCIDING WITH THESE SIGHTINGS ARE REPORTS OF VILLAGERS SUFFERING STRANGE BITES AND LOSS OF BLOOD! MY FRIENDS, WE MUST GO TO WHITBY AND DESTROY THIS CREATURE!"



"WHITBY! DRACULA FIRST LANDED THERE! THIS COULD BE A VICTIM OF HIS WE NEVER DISCOVERED!"

"EVEN SO, I CANNOT DO IT! NOT WHILE MINA IS IN THE HANDS OF YET ANOTHER FUND!"



ARTICLE IN THIS PAPER INDICATES ONE OF THE UNDEAD STALKS SEACOAST VILLAGE OF WHITBY... WHERE THERE IS VAMPIRE, THERE MUST I GO TO DO BATTLE!



"FRIEND JONATHAN, I WOULD NOT ASK IT OF YOU IF I DID NOT BELIEVE THE SALVATION OF MADAM MINA LIES IN DESTROYING THIS CREATURE BEFORE ANOTHER NIGHT IS GONE!"



THE SURF CRASHED WITH LOUD PERSISTENCE AGAINST THE BREAKERS, AS THE THREE MEN SEARCHED DESPERATELY INTO THE PREDAWN HOURS...

WE'VE BEEN AT IT ALL NIGHT, DR. VAN HELSYNG! THESE CLIFFS ARE RIDDLED WITH CAVES! HOW CAN WE HOPE TO FIND THE VAMPIRE?

YET IT IS OUR ONLY HOPE... AND MADAM MINA'S!

BUT WHY? WHAT HAS THIS CREATURE TO DO WITH ADRIAN WARNEY?



COUNT DRACULA IS KING AMONG UNDEAD... WE KILL HIS BODY, DESTROY HIS POWER, BUT NOT HIS SPIRIT! THAT LIVES AMONG SOIL AND ASHES IN HIS COFFIN! WAITING... WAITING...

THERE! ANOTHER CAVE!



LORD WARNEY'S EVIL NATURE MAKES HIM EASY HOST FOR THIS SPIRIT... DRACULA'S DESIRES BECOME HIS OWN!

THAT'S WHY HE KIDNAPPED MINA! DRACULA FAILED TO CLAIM HER... NOW HE'S TRYING AGAIN AS ADRIAN WARNEY! DEAR GOD, WHAT CAN WE DO?!



HE HAS NOT YET FULL POWERS! ONLY IF LORD WARNEY IS VAMPIRE CAN THIS BE SO... AND THIS WE MUST PREVENT!

ADRIAN CAN ONLY BECOME A VAMPIRE BY BEING ANOTHER'S VICTIM! YOU THINK HE'LL SEARCH OUT THIS ONE WE SEEK...

SHHH! SOMETHING AHEAD!



VAMPIRE!!







NO! LORD, NO! HE'S  
GETTING AWAY!  
VARNEY'S GETTING  
AWAY!!



WE'VE LET  
VARNEY THROUGH  
OUR FINGERS!

NO... IT IS  
NOT VARNEY  
THAT HAS  
ESCAPED, BUT  
**COUNT  
DRACULA!**



HIS SPIRIT'S  
REGAINED ITS POWER!  
WE'VE LOST... **LOST!**

NEARLY DAWN... TO  
RETURN TO THE COFFIN  
BEFORE THE  
FIRST RAYS OF THE  
SUN, HE **MUST** HAVE  
IT SOMEWHERE  
NEAR...



THE COUNT'S NOBLE BLOOD  
WOULD DEMAND AN ELABORATE  
RESTING PLACE... A LARGE  
ESTATE...

**ESTATE?** OF  
COURSE! WHEN I  
HANDLED ADRIAN'S  
UNCLE'S ESTATE...  
THERE WAS MENTION  
OF A **CASTLE!** UP  
THE COAST FROM  
HERE...



... **CASTLE  
VARNEY!**

EVEN IN THE DAY  
LIGHT, IT LOOKS  
FORMIDABLE!

LOCKED UP TIGHT!  
WE'LL HAVE TO  
TRUST OUR LUCK  
TO THESE - CAN YOU  
MAKE THE CLIMB,  
DR. VAN HELSING?

BEHIND THESE WALLS  
MADAM MINA MAY  
LIE VICTIM TO THAT  
MONSTER... CAN I  
DO LESS THAN TRY?

THE FUNERAL COACH  
VARNEY USED THAT TO  
CARRY MINA AWAY!  
THE COFFIN WAS  
INSIDE...



EMPTY!

MINA MUST BE INSIDE!  
WE'VE GOT TO SEARCH  
FROM TOP TO  
BOTTOM!



ROOM AFTER ROOM  
WAS BROKEN INTO  
AND EXPLORED...  
ANXIOUS MINUTES  
STRETCHED INTO  
FRUSTRATING HOURS...



IT'S THE ONLY PLACE  
LEFT! SHE'S GOT TO BE  
DOWN HERE! DAWN WAS  
COMING FAST... PER-  
HAPS HE DIDN'T  
HAVE TIME TO...

MINA!!!



DOCTOR!  
IS SHE...?

THE FANTEST OF  
HEARTBEATS! WE  
MUST ACT QUICKLY...



ONE THING MAY  
WORK...  
*TRANSFUSION!*

DRAIN EVERY LAST  
DROP FROM MY BODY...  
BUT SAVE HER!



SOMEWHERE IN THIS CASTLE, ADRIAN  
WARNEY IS AT REST... BUILDING UP  
TO WORK GREATER EVIL... YOU YOUNG  
MEN MUST BE STRONG AND READY TO  
MEET HIS CHALLENGE WHEN IT COMES!  
MADAM, MINA WILL RECEIVE MY  
BLOOD!



DROP BY DROP, EVER SO SLOWLY, THE VITAL RED  
FLUID IS FED BACK INTO THE RAWAGED VEINS OF  
MINA HARKER...



IT'S LATE... THE SUN IS  
DROPPING LIKE A ROCK! HOW  
IS IT GOING? SHE DOESN'T  
SEEM TO BE... *GOOP LORD!*

GYPSIES! LOADING THE COFFIN  
INTO THE FUNERAL COACH! EITHER  
WARNEY'S STILL IN THERE  
OR HE'S...



... BEHIND  
US!!





HALF-BLINDED WITH PAIN, THE BLACK-CAPED FIGURE RACED TO THE COURTYARD AND THE WAITING FUNERAL COACH... A CRACK OF THE WHIP AND AN ANGRY CRY SENT THE HORSE LEAPING FORWARD!

HARKER! COME BACK!  
IT'S NIGHT! YOU WON'T  
STAND A CHANCE  
AGAINST HIS POWERS  
ALONE!

AGAIN AND AGAIN THE WHIP CRACKED... THE RUMBLING COACH CREAKED AND STRAINED IN PROTEST AT THE RELENTLESS URGING OF THE DEMON DRIVER... STONE AND ROCK SCATTERED AND FELL HUNDREDS OF FEET TO THE POUNDING SURF BELOW!





THE OCEAN BOILS AND FOAMS, DRIVING THE WRECKAGE INTO ITS DARK REPTHS...SWALLOWING THE LARGE BLACK BOX, INCUBATOR OF DUCKER SECRETS... DRAGGING DOWN THE COFFIN OF DRACULA!



TSK! TSK! LOOKS LIKE THE COUNT'S *SANITY* HAVE BEEN *DAMPENED*... OR WILL THIS BE A CASE OF WHAT GOES *DOWN* MUST COME *UP*? WE'LL SEE IN THE FUTURE... MEANTIME, FOR THE PRESENT, I'VE GOT ANOTHER *FRIGHT-FABLE* FOR YOU!





HEH, HEH, HEH! ALL READY FOR ANOTHER SESSION IN UNCLE CREEPY'S LIBRARY OF LOATHSOME LORE? WELL, COME INSIDE, THEN...AND LOCK THE DOOR! YOU'VE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME TO TAKE PART IN A TRULY TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE WHILE ON A TOUR OF ...

# The CASTLE on the MOOR!

**D**ARK AND BROODING, EVERLEIGH CASTLE STANDS IN SINISTER SILENCE AGAINST THE BLEAK, LATE AFTERNOON SKY OF WINTER. THE BARREN, CRAGGY MOOR, STRETCHING IN ALL DIRECTIONS TO FAR DISTANT CIVILIZATION, POSED NUMEROUS QUESTIONS AS TO THE WHY AND WHEREFOR OF A CASTLE, HERE, ON SUCH FORSAKEN LANDS, BUT THE MANY REASONS FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION LIE BURIED DEEP IN THE PAST AND HAVE NO MEANING FOR THOSE OF THE PRESENT. LORD EVERLEIGH, PROUD DESCENDANT OF HISTORIC, NOBLE ANCESTRY, HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO REMAIN HERE, LOST IN A USELESS HULK OF UGLY STONE AND MORTAR, TRAPPED BY BEING HEIR TO AN ECONOMIC MILLSTONE, A POSSESSION HE CANNOT SELL, YET CANNOT MAINTAIN, A MILLSTONE THAT ONLY ENABLES HIM TO EKE AN EXISTENCE BY HANGING A SIGN ON THE FRONT DOOR READING ... "EVERLEIGH CASTLE, GUIDED TOURS DAILY."



**T**HE COACH RATTLED TO A HALT BEFORE THE BROAD STEPS OF EVERLEIGH CASTLE AND DISCHARGED ITS FIVE PASSENGERS. FIVE TOURISTS FROM THE NEAREST TOWN, TWENTY-SEVEN MILES AWAY, ALL STRANGERS TO ONE ANOTHER A FEW HOURS PAST, NOW A CURIOUS GROUP OF ACQUAINTANCES, STANDING TIMIDLY BEFORE THE TOWERING WALLS, WAITING PATIENTLY, EXPECTANTLY, NERVOUSLY...UNTIL THE MINUTES PASSED AND LORD EVERLEIGH APPEARED IN THE DOORWAY...



WELCOME, MY FRIENDS! SO GOOD OF YOU TO COME! I AM LORD EVERLEIGH, YOUR HOST AND GUIDE FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS. WE SHALL START THE TOUR IMMEDIATELY. PLEASE...DO COME INSIDE...

AND SO, AS IT HAPPENED EVERY DAY, THE TOUR BEGAN, AND THE LONG, BLOODY HISTORY OF EVERLEIGH CASTLE WAS UNFOLDED, ROOM BY ROOM, DUNGEON AFTER DUNGEON, FLOOR UPON FLOOR, UNTIL THEY REACHED THE TOUR'S END...THE TOWER.

LORD EVERLEIGH, YOU HAVEN'T SHOWN US WHAT'S UP THERE! WHAT'S THAT DOOR?

THERE'S NOTHING IN THERE, MY DEAR MRS. HILL, AND I FEAR THIS CASTLE IS SO OLD IT WOULD BE QUITE DANGEROUS TO TRY THOSE STEPS! I MUST INSIST NO ONE GO UP THERE.



HA, HA, HA! YOU CAN'T FOOL US, LORD EVERLEIGH! THAT'S WHERE ALL THE GHOSTS ARE WHO HAUNT THIS SPOOKY OLD PLACE!

YES! OF COURSE! OH, LORD EVERLEIGH, PLEASE TAKE US UP THERE!

NO, I'M SORRY, BUT THE TOUR IS ENDED! WE MUST RETURN TO THE MAIN HALL! YOUR CARRIAGE WILL BE ARRIVING SHORTLY! PLEASE FOLLOW ME!



AS THE GROUP REACHED THE MAIN FLOOR...

LORD EVERLEIGH, SIR, TELEPHONE MESSAGE FOR YOU. THE CARRIAGE HAS BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT. THERE WILL BE A DELAY UNTIL ANOTHER ONE CAN BE SENT FOR YOUR GUESTS.

OH, THAT'S DREADFUL... I DO HOPE THE DRIVER WASN'T INJURED...



HOW LONG WILL WE HAVE TO WAIT?

AT LEAST SEVERAL HOURS, I FEAR. PLEASE TRY TO MAKE YOURSELVES AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE. IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I SHALL SEE ABOUT REFRESHMENTS!



HILL, AN UNEXPECTED PAUSE IN THE FESTIVITIES, BUT A WELCOME ONE FOR ME! I'M FAMISHED, AREN'T YOU, MISS CREIGHTON?

I CERTAINLY AM! I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN HERE! IT'S AFTER DARK!

AWH! THIS FIRE FEELS GOOD! MIGHT JUST TAKE A BIT OF A NAP BEFORE MEALTIME! ALL THAT CLIMBING UP AND DOWN STAIRS...TIRED ME OUT...



PEACEFULLY, THE TIME PASSED UNTIL THE BUTLER ANNOUNCED THAT DINNER WAS SERVED. THE TOURISTS STROLLED INTO THE HUGE DINING ROOM AND TOOK THEIR PLACES... IT WAS THEN THEY DISCOVERED...

WHERE'S MRS. HILL?

WHY... SHE'S NOT HERE!

WHAT? GREAT SCOTT! SHE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO ROAM THE CASTLE! I'LL SEARCH FOR HER!

PLEASE... DO GO ON WITH YOUR DINING! I'M SURE SHE HAVEN'T GONE FAR! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

MR. WAYNE, LORD EVERLEIGH SEEMS UPSET! COULDN'T YOU HELP HIM FIND MRS. HILL?

YOU'RE RIGHT... OF COURSE I WILL.

HURRIEDLY, LORD EVERLEIGH MADE HIS WAY UP THROUGH THE CASTLE, NOT ONCE STOPPING TO SEARCH OR CALL OUT... UNTIL HE REACHED THE TOWER.

I KNEW IT! I KNEW SHE'D COME HERE! THE DOOR IS OPEN!

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT THAT DOOR BEING OPEN? WHAT'S WRONG?

MR. WAYNE! ...I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD FOLLOWED ME! WHY NOTHING'S WRONG, REALLY! MRS. HILL HAD BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT THIS DOOR... BUT SHE'S NOT HERE! WE'D BEST GO BACK...

NOT SO FAST! I'M RATHER CURIOUS AS TO WHAT'S BEHIND THAT DOOR. MYSELF! STAND ASIDE!

MRS HILL!

**SHE'S DEAD!  
RIPPED TO  
PIECES!  
YOU'D BETTER  
EXPLAIN,  
EVERLEIGH!**

**IT'S... IT'S MY SON... HE'S A  
WEREWOLF! WE HAVE  
TO KEEP HIM LOCKED UP!  
TONIGHT IS THE FULL MOON!  
HE'S ALL RIGHT AT OTHER  
TIMES, BUT...**



**FROM BELOW, ECHOING HORRIBLY THROUGH THE  
CASTLE, CAME TERRIFIED SCREAMS! TOGETHER,  
THE TWO MEN RACED DOWNSTAIRS...**



**IN THE KITCHEN, THE BUTLER'S GORY CORPSE  
SPRAWLED SICKENINGLY, GROTESQUELY ON THE  
TILE FLOOR...**

**BUT HOW DID IT  
HAPPEN? HE...  
HE LOOKS AS IF  
SOME WILD  
ANIMAL HAD...**

**DON'T THINK ABOUT IT! I'LL  
EXPLAIN LATER... RIGHT  
NOW, WE'D...**



**THE SHRIEK OF AGONY HAD COME FROM THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE. IN A BODY, THEY RUSHED THERE...**

**GOOD LORD!  
IT'S THE  
HOUSEKEEPER!**

**LOOK! THE FRONT  
DOOR'S OPEN!**

**I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!**

**ME, TOO!**





**WAIT! COME BACK! HE MAY BE OUT THERE!**

**OF COURSE! HE MUST HAVE GONE OUTSIDE! CLOSE THE DOOR! QUICKLY!**

**YOU'RE RIGHT! WE'D BE FOOLISH TO TRY TO RUN AFTER THOSE TWO! I'LL BOLT THE DOOR, THEN TELEPHONE FOR HELP!**

**MR. WAYNE! LORD EVERLEIGH'S PAINTINGS!**



**THE STRAIN'S BEEN TOO MUCH FOR HIM! SMALL WONDER IT HASN'T KILLED HIM, POOR FELLOW! THIS HALL IS SO DRAFTY! HELP ME GET HIM INTO THE MAIN ROOM, BY THE FIRE!**

**SO MANY THINGS ARE HAPPENING SO FAST! I'M TERRIFIED! WHAT'S GOING ON?**



**ALL THESE HIDEOUS KILLINGS HAVE BEEN DONE BY A WEREWOLF... AND THE WEREWOLF IS LORD EVERLEIGH'S SON! MRS. HILL LET HIM LOOSE ACCIDENTALLY... AND PAID WITH HER LIFE!**

**MRS. HILL IS DEAD, TOO! MY HEAVENS, WHAT WILL WE DO, MR. WAYNE? I... LISTEN!**



**THE WEREWOLF!**

**WHY... MY SON... IT'S MY SON... HELP ME... HELP ME UP...**



MR. WAYNE! QUICKLY!  
THE BUFFET DRAWER!  
HURRY!  
HARR-ASH-HAH!

LORD EVERLEIGH!



IT'S A PISTOL! AND  
GIVER BULLETS!

HURRY! HE'S KILLED  
LORD EVERLEIGH!!



AND'S FUMBLING IN FRANTIC HASTE, HE CRAMS  
A BULLET INTO THE CHAMBER! AND AS THE  
BLOOD-CRAZED BEAST HURLS ITSELF UPON HIS  
NEXT VICTIM...

IT'S ALL OVER NOW,  
MISS CREIGHTON...  
THE WEREWOLF IS  
DEAD... IN FACT,  
EVERYONE'S DEAD!

OH, THANK HEAVENS YOU  
DIDN'T MISS! HE WAS SO  
CLOSE... SO CLOSE! IF  
YOU HADN'T SAVED ME,  
MR. WAYNE...



MR. WAYNE! STOP!  
YOU...YOU'RE ...  
CHOKING ... ME ...

I HAD TO SAVE YOU, MISS CREIGHTON! A SHOU!D  
JUST CAN'T RESIST THE TEMPTATION OF SO MANY  
DEAD BODIES! EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE MANGLED AND  
TORN, NONETHELESS, THEY'LL PROVIDE ME WITH A  
MARVELOUS FEAST! BUT I HAD TO MAKE SURE  
YOU DIED UNMARKED! AND WHAT A DELICIOUS  
DESSERT YOU WILL MAKE, MISS CREIGHTON!  
WHAT A DELICIOUS DESSERT!

WELL, SNAP MY  
TOOTHPICK! THAT  
SHENNY MR. WAYNE  
SURE TAKES THE  
CAKE! ER...I MEAN,  
THE DESSERT! HE'S  
THE ONLY FELLOW I  
KNOW WHO DOESN'T  
HAVE TO PAY HIS  
FOOD BILL! IN THE...  
ER... "RESTAURANTS."  
HE DINES IN,  
NOBODY PICKS  
UP THE CHECK!  
HEH, HEH!



LIFE TOO ROUGH NOWADAYS? MAYBE YOU'LL  
LIKE THE YEAR 2074...THE WORLD'S AT PEACE  
AND READY TO PIONEER THE PLANETS! THEY'VE  
THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING IN PREPARING THE  
FIRST SETTLEMENT...OR HAVE THEY? SEE  
FOR YOURSELF AS OPERATION BEGINS  
ON A...



# MOON CITY!






THE FIRST STEP WAS THE CONSTRUCTION OF GIANT SPACE SATELLITES THAT WOULD SERVE AS RELAY STATIONS BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE MOON.



ON THE SATELLITES, THE STEEL AND METAL ALLOY BEAMS WERE PUT QUICKLY INTO PRODUCTION, AND THEN RAPIDLY TRANSPORTED TO LUNA BY SPACE TAXI...



THE OTHER MATERIALS ARRIVED BY EXPRESS SPACECRAFT, DIRECT FROM EARTH, AND THE HARDY CREWS BEGAN IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION...



LIVING QUARTERS WERE QUICKLY ERECTED... IN CONTRAST TO THE YEARS REQUIRED TO DESIGN 'MOON CITY'!



WILL CHAMBERS WAS ONE OF THE YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON THE GREAT PROJECT.

NOT SINCE THE DAYS OF DANIEL BOONE COULD A MAN FEEL THE EXCITEMENT OF PIONEERING I FEEL NOW!

BETWEEN WORK PERIODS, WILL'S THOUGHTS WERE 240,000 MILES AWAY...

WHEN I COMPLETE MY JOB, JENNIFER AND I WILL BE MARRIED ON EARTH... AND WE'LL RETURN TO MOON CITY TO BUILD A NEW LIFE!

... WHILE BACK ON EARTH...

THE MOON HAS ALWAYS SHONE DOWN ON LOVERS... BUT WILL AND I WILL ACTUALLY LIVE THERE!

WILL'S FIANCEE WAS ONE OF A VOLUNTARY GROUP PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE SETTLEMENT OF MOON CITY...

WITHIN THE CITY'S PROTECTIVE DOME, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FUNCTION MUCH AS YOU DO NOW...

OH... IF ONLY I COULD BE WITH WILL NOW!

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESSED RAPIDLY IN THE MONTH THAT FOLLOWED, AND WHEN AT LAST THE CITY WAS COMPLETED, A GREAT DOME WAS PLACED TO ENVELOPE THE NEW METROPOLIS SO THAT FUTURE INHABITANTS WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE ABOUT WITHOUT CUMBERSOME SPACESUITS...

WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE DOME, SUPPLIES BEGAN TO ARRIVE ABOARD THE TRANSPORT ROCKETS...



AND WERE CAREFULLY STORED FOR THE INHABITANTS WHO WOULD ARRIVE LATER...



CATTLE AND OTHER SELECTED ANIMALS ARRIVED, AND WERE BROUGHT INTO MOON CITY IN PRESSURIZED CARGO CARRIERS...



ANIMALS AND WORKMEN THEN UNDERWENT MONTHS OF EXTENSIVE TESTS TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTS OF THE SIMULATED ATMOSPHERE...

AND WHEN THE TESTS WERE COMPLETED, MOST OF THE CREW AND ALL THE ANIMALS WERE EVACUATED.



HERE I COME, JENNIFER!

ONLY THE DECONTAMINATION SQUAD REMAINED. IT WAS THEIR JOB TO SPRAY THE ENTIRE COMPOUND...TO RID IT OF EVEN THE SMALLEST GERM BROUGHT DURING THE CONSTRUCTION...



THE CITY WAS LEFT A HOLLOW, STERILIZED SHELL, AND WOULD REMAIN SO FOR FIVE YEARS... THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE TO FULLY TEST THE PRESSURIZED CONTROLS.



FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS ON EARTH, AFTER THE ROCKETS LANDED, MOON CITY WAS FORGOTTEN... AT LEAST BY TWO PEOPLE...



THE MONTHS PASSED RAPIDLY INTO YEARS... THEN, FINALLY...



THE FAREWELLS WERE TEARFUL AND EMOTIONAL AS THE YOUNG PEOPLE BOARDED POISED AND READY ROCKETS DESTINED FOR THE NEW FRONTIER...



THE CITY WAS LIKE A SHINING JEWEL IN THE LIGHT OF THE SUN AS THE SPACESHIPS SET DOWN...



SHINING EYES AND BEATING HEARTS WERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY AS THE SETTLERS ENTERED THEIR NEW HOME...

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT, HONEY?

IT... IT'S LIKE A DREAM KINGDOM!

PORTAL  
7



WITH THE ARRIVALS SAFELY LOCKED INSIDE THE PRESSURE DOME, THE ROCKETS RETURNED TO EARTH FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES...




THE HAPPY SOUNDS SOON STOPPED IN THE THROATS OF THE NEW ARRIVALS WHEN THEY SAW THE TERRIBLE GLEAMING EYES!



OVERLOOKED WHEN THE TEST ANIMALS WERE EVACUATED WAS A PREGNANT GERMAN SHEPHERD, THAT SOON GAVE BIRTH TO A LARGE LITTER WHICH GREW STRONG ON THE CONTAINER'S PURE AIR AND MULTIPLIED RAPIDLY IN THE FIVE LONG YEARS! AFTER THE FOOD SUPPLIES WERE DEVoured BY THE DOGS, CAME STARVATION, FOLLOWED BY MADNESS... THEN, AT LAST, ARRIVED... *FOOD!*





C'MON, YOU RED-BLOODED READERS! GO SOUTH FOR THE WINTER AND MEET DRUSILLA... YOU GOTTA BE RED-BLOODED TO MEET HER, 'CAUSE SHE'S A VAMPIRE! DON'T BE TOO WORRIED...IT'S THE HEIGHT OF THE TOURIST SEASON AND DRUSILLA AND HER FAMILY ARE USUALLY...

# SWAMPED!

GETTIN' DARK,  
SHERIFF! RECKON  
WE OUGHTTA TURN  
BACK?

WE GOT TORCHES! NO  
TURNIN' BACK TILL THAT  
MAD DOG'S BACK IN IRONS!

AIN'T NOBODY EVER BEEN THIS  
DEEP IN THE SWAMP BEFORE!  
AH'D SAY IT'S LIKELY OL'  
LEROY'LL GET KILLED ON HIS  
OWN WITHOUT OUR RUNNIN'  
HIM DOWN!

AH CAN'T TAKE THE  
CHANCE! HE'S GOT AWAY  
ONCE... WE DON'T STOP  
TILL LEROY KANE'S  
BROUGHT TO REEL!





WHOO BOY! LEFT THAT POSSE WAY BACK! THEY'LL KEEP A'COMIN' THOUGH... SHERIFF WON'T LET 'EM STOP! **REE!** NO AFTA WHAT I DID TO HIS WIFE! **NO, SIR!**



DANG NEAR GREW UP IN THIS SWAMP... NEVER SEEN THIS PART BEFORE! BE PITCH BLACK SOON... GOTTA FIND SOME PLACE TO SETTLE...



NO YOU DON'T, COTTONMOUTH?

**POW!**



AIN'T NO SNAKE, NOR WARHUNT, NOR HARD-HUNTIN' SHERIFF'S POSSE GOIN' GIT LEROY KAME! AH'M WALKIN' OUT OF THIS SWAMP AN' AH'M WALKIN' OUT A FREE MAN! **HEY!** WHAZZAT AHEAD?



WHOO BOY! SWACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS GOD-FORSAKEN SWAMP? SUMPIN' WEIRD 'BOUT THAT!



MY NAME IS DRUSILLA. I LIVE HERE... WITH MY AUNT AND UNCLE...





WHAT TH-- YOU  
BIT ME IN THE  
NECK!

NATURALLY, MR. KANE!  
AFTER ALL, WE'RE...

VAMPIRES!

AND YOU'RE OUR  
FIRST GUEST IN A  
LONG, LONG TIME!



YOUR GUN IS USELESS,  
MR. KANE! WE'RE QUITE  
IMMUNE TO BULLETS!

WAIT! SIT BACK! I'LL  
MAKE A DEAL! WHY  
SETTLE FOR ME WHEN  
AH CAN LEAD YUH TO  
WELL NIGH A DOZEN  
MEN!

NO TRICKS,  
MR. KANE!

AIN'T NO TRICKS, HONEY!  
THEY'S A POSSE TRAILIN'  
ME THROUGH THIS SWAMP...  
AH CAN BACKTRACK, FIND 'EM,  
AND LEAD 'EM TO Y'ALL!

WE CAN FOL-  
LOW HIM IN  
BAT-FOAM  
TO MAKE  
SURE HE  
DONES'T TRY  
TO GET AWAY!

YOU'LL SEE! YOU'LL  
SEE! A WHOLE POSSE  
FOR THE PICKIN'!





WHAT'D AH TELL  
YUH! GO GIT 'EM!



HEY!  
WHATZAT  
SWOOPIN'  
AROUND!

BATS!  
ATTACKIN'!

THOSE AIN'T  
BATS! THEY'RE...  
VAMPIRES!!



YAAAAHHHHH!



ARGHHHHH!



NOOOOOO!



HEE! HEE! THEY  
DONE IT! KILLED 'EM  
ALL!



THERE! AH KEPT MY WORD! HUNT!  
GONNA LET ME GO? HEY! GIT  
BACK! GIT BACK! AH KEPT  
MAN WORD!



TAKE HIM BACK TO  
THE MANSION AND  
LOCK HIM UP! WE'LL  
NEED HIM TOMORROW  
NIGHT!



BUT AH MADE  
A DEAL! A  
DEAL!





FIENDS, ROMANS, COUNTRYMEN...LEND ME YOUR WARPED LITTLE MINDS AND I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE DAYS OF THE OLD ROMAN EMPIRE FOR SOME HYSTERICAL HISTORY...BACK TO THE BLOODY ARENAS WHERE A MAN'S LIFE DEPENDS ON THE SIMPLE GESTURE OF THUMBS UP OR...

# THUMBS DOWN!

WITH A ROAR OF SURPRISE AND EXCITEMENT, THE CROWD IN THE COLISEUM OF THE ROMAN CITY OF MYTHRAS WAS ON ITS FEET... THE FAVORED GLADIATOR HAD FALLEN AND AN AIR OF BLOOD AND DEATH SWEPT THE ARENA!

YOUR MAN, AGLIO, HAS FOUGHT WELL, BRACCHUS... SHALL I LET HIM LIVE?

AS GAMES MASTER OF THE ARENA, I'VE LEARNED ONE VERY IMPORTANT LESSON, YOUR HIGHNESS...



AS THE CROWD STREAMED FROM THE ARENA AT THE GAMES' END, BRACCHIUS RUSHED HAPPILY BELOW TO THE GLADIATORS' ROOMS, AS DRUNK WITH GREED AND POWER AS WITH THE STRENGTH OF RED WINE HE HAD SWILLED ALL AFTERNOON...

WELL FOUGHT, CASSIUS! YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF CHAMPION AND ME A RICH MAN! EVERY FOOL IN THE CITY WAS BETTING ON AGLIO!

BUT YOU TOLD AGLIO HE COULD HAVE HIS FREEDOM IF HE LET ME WIN!

AND SO HE DOES! WHO CAN BE FREAKER THAN A DEAD MAN!

WHAT ABOUT ME, BRACCHIUS? WILL YOU SOON GRANT ME SUCH FREEDOM?

NOT YOU, CASSIUS! YOU SHARE MY SECRET, HAVE MY GRATITUDE... YOU, I'LL TAKE CARE OF!



SO BRACCHUS AND HIS  
ARENA PROSPERED...  
GROWING DAILY WITH  
THE INCREASED TRADE  
IN DEATH AND  
BRUTALITY...




SHAME! THE  
PEOPLE STARVE  
AND DIE IN THE STREETS  
AND SUPPLY SHIPS BRING  
ONLY ANIMALS AND SAND  
FOR THE ARENA!  
SHAME, BRACCHUS!



SHUT UP,  
OLD FOOL!  
YOU CAN'T TALK  
THAT WAY  
TO ME!



CONCERNED ABOUT FOOD,  
EHP? WELL, TOMORROW YOU  
CAN HELP FEED  
SOME STARVING  
LIONS--WITH  
YOUR FLESH!



BUT ALL BRACCHUS'S PROBLEMS WERE  
NOT SO SIMPLE OR SO EASILY SOLVED...



A GLADIATOR'S  
LIFE IS A HARD  
ONE, BRACCHUS...  
EVEN IN YOUR FIRED  
CONTESTS! I WANT  
TO BE MADE  
A FREE MAN!



THE GAMES ARE  
IMPORTANT TO THE  
PEOPLE...YOU'D BE  
TORN APART IF WORD  
REACHED THEM  
YOUR CONTESTS  
ARE DISHONEST!



A GOOD  
POINT, WELL  
ARGUED, CASSIUS!  
I'LL SEE WHAT  
I CAN DO!



FELLOW CITIZENS!  
I WISH TO ANNOUNCE  
A CHANGE IN TODAY'S  
MATCHES! A CHANGE  
WHICH I KNOW WILL  
HEIGHTEN YOUR  
PLEASURE!

OUR CHAMPION GLADIATOR,  
CASSIUS, WAS TO HAVE DONE  
BATTLE WITH THEBES THE  
GREEK... INSTEAD, I HAVE  
ARRANGED FOR HIM TO  
MEET AN INTERESTING  
NEW CHALLENGER!"



"JUST ARRIVED  
FROM SPAIN!"

BRACCHUS!  
**NO!**



GAAAAAA!

MARVELOUS,  
BRACCHUS! WHAT  
A SPECTACLE!  
TOMORROW IS THE  
FEAST OF APOLLO.  
HOW CAN YOU  
HOPE TO TOP  
THIS?

I BELIEVE YOUR HIGHNESS  
HAS RECENTLY ACQUIRED  
A NEW BATCH OF  
CHRISTIANS... BY A  
STRANGE COINCIDENCE,  
I HAVE RECENTLY AC-  
QUIRED A NEW BATCH OF  
LIONS... AND TIGERS!



NIGHT BROUGHT NO  
DESIRE FOR SLEEP  
TO BRACCHUS... IT  
WAS A TIME FOR  
CELEBRATION! THE  
FEAST OF APOLLO  
WOULD BRING THE  
BIGGEST CROWDS  
OF THE YEAR AND  
HE COULD NOT  
RESIST A LAST  
JUBILANT REVIEW  
TO MAKE SURE HIS  
DOMAIN WAS IN  
READINESS...

CHEER UP, BEASTS!  
TONIGHT I DINED WITH  
THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR!  
TOMORROW... YOU'RE GONNA  
FATTEN ON CHICKENS!

HERE! YOU KEEP THIS MORN  
ME! YOU HEAR DOWN THERE?  
GONNA BE FOOD FOR THE  
BIG CATS... GONNA MAKE  
ME A BIG SUCCESS!

THIS IS  
ALL MINE!  
MAKIN' ME RICH  
FAMOUS...  
POWERFUL!

WAIT! WHO'Z IT?  
WHAT'RE YOU  
DOIN' HERE? NO-  
BODY'S ALLOWED  
HERE TILL  
TOMORROW...  
GET OUT OF  
MY ARENA!

CLINK! CLANG!

THAT NOISE!  
SOUNDS LIKE  
ANIMALS BEING  
RELEASED FROM  
THEIR CAGES!

GROWRRRRR!



IF-NO! THEY'LL  
BE LOOSE HERE  
IN THE ARENA  
WITH ME!



HELP! PLEASE!  
I DON'T CARE  
WHO YOU ARE!  
HELP ME!



YOU CAN  
SAVE ME! PULL  
ME UP ON THE  
TAPESTRY! PLEASE!  
SAVE ME!  
I'LL GIVE YOU  
ANYTHING  
JUST—



G-CASSIUS!  
P-PLEASE!

EVEN AS A WHIRLWIND OF HOT BREATH, FANGS AND CLAWS  
SPRAWLED HIM INTO THE ARENA SAND, BRACCHUS'S EYES LOOKED  
PLEADINGLY UP AT THE LAST SIGHT THEY WOULD EVER SEE...THE  
HAND FROM THE GRAVE FORMING THE HOPELESS GESTURE MORE  
FAMILIAR TO HIM THAN THE DEATH CRY WHICH EVEN NOW BURST  
FROM HIS MOUTH!



HEH, HEH! THAT ONE'S A REAL  
SCREAM! HOPE ALL YOU CATS  
DUG IT...WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT  
WHEN YOU GO ROAMIN' AROUND  
THE ARENA AT NIGHT? YOU'RE  
BOUND TO  
BUMP INTO  
SOMEONE  
WHO'S ALL  
THUMBS-  
DOWN!





NOW FOR A REALLY *FAR OUT* TALE... LIKE, *FOUR LIGHT YEARS* OUT AS SOME *SPACED-OUT* SPACEMEN ON A WILD TRIP DISCOVER SOME *MIND-BENDING* FACTS ABOUT THE UNIVERSE, LIFE, AND...

# THE COSMIC ALL

THE FIRST INTERSTELLAR SHIP "ALDREN" SLOWED DOWN TO "ONE LIGHT" (OR, TO PUT IT CORRECTLY, RE-ENTERED NORMAL SPACE AND TIME) JUST A MILLION MILES AWAY FROM THEIR AIMING POINT ON THE RIM OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM SURROUNDING THE NEAREST STAR, ALPHA CENTAURI! ...

YES SIR /  
COURSE FOR  
ALPHA II IS  
BEING FED IN  
NOW, SIR!

THE READINGS INDICATE  
WE'LL NEED FUEL EQUIP-  
MENT... BETTER SUIT  
UP, KIDS!

YES  
SIR!

ENTERING  
THE PLANET'S  
ATMOSPHERE  
NOW... FIRE  
RETROS

LANDING PARTY  
READY TO DIS-  
EMBARK, SIR!

STRANGE...  
THERE'S LOTS  
OF PLANT  
LIFE, SO  
THERE ~~HAD~~ BE  
ANIMAL LIFE  
AS WELL...

BUT SO  
FAR WE'VE  
SEEN NO SIGN  
OF IT!

LOOK!  
SKELLITONS!

THIS ONE  
LOOKS ALMOST  
HUMANOID...WE  
MAY RUN INTO  
INTELLIGENT  
LIFE...

NOTHING BUT  
BONES... THIS  
WHOLE WORLD  
IS A GRAVE-  
YARD!

SIR, COME  
HERE! QUICK!

A SPACE  
SHIP!

AND MORE  
BONES... WELL,  
THAT'S ENOUGH  
FOR TODAY!

WE'LL CAMP  
HERE BY THIS  
LAKE...

DON, YOU'LL  
STAND THE  
FIRST  
WATCH!

THE CREW WAS SOON ASLEEP, AND EVEN THE GUARD NODDED, WHEN...





ONE IRRESISTIBLE BEAM FROM THE SHIP STRUCK THE CITY'S FORCE FIELD, AND...



GETTING A SIGNAL, SIR! SEEMS TO BE FROM THE CITY...

FEED IT INTO THE TRANSLATOR! MAYBE WE CAN SETTLE THIS PEACEFULLY...



THE MESSAGE IS COMING THROUGH NOW, CAPTAIN... LISTEN...

SPACE SHIP... IF... YOU WANT TRANSMIT... WE HAVE... TRANSLATING MACHINE...



WHY DID YOU FIRE AT US? WE CAME IN PEACE...

YOU ARE... THREAT TO US... YOU CAME FROM... PLANET OF... THE SLIME...



...AND NOW... IT NO LONGER MATTERS... YOU MAY LAND... FOR WE ARE... DOOMED... AS YOU ARE...

WHAT SHALL WE DO, SIR? THEY SEEM TO BE TRYING TO SCARE US!

WE'VE COME FOUR LIGHT YEARS TO GET DATA! WE'RE NOT GOING TO CHICKEN OUT NOW! PREPARE TO LAND!

AS THEY HEARD THE ALIEN CITY...



KEEP YOUR GUNS READY! BRING UP THE TRANSLATOR!

HERE THEY COME!



THEY'RE ATTACKING! FIRE!





WE'RE NEARLY HOME!  
OH DON! WE MADE IT!



THERE'S JUST ONE  
THING I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND...



YES... I  
KNOW... WHY  
DIDN'T IT  
HAPPEN  
TO US...?

WHY WERE  
WE SAVED?



LATER...

SUE! WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING?  
WE ARE OFF  
COURSE!



YES... I... I DON'T KNOW  
WHY I... SOMETHING CAME  
OVER ME... A VOICE - NO!  
A THOUGHT...



YOU'RE  
INSANE!  
GET OUT  
OF MY  
WAY!

MAYBE I  
CAN STILL  
CORRECT...



NO! YOU  
MUSTN'T!  
WE MUST  
NOT BE  
EXAMINED!

THEY  
WILL  
FIND  
OUT...

...AND  
KILL  
US!

AND AS THEY  
STRUGGLED,  
THE GREAT  
STAR SHIP  
WENT INTO  
FINAL ORBIT,  
AND THEN  
IT WAS TOO  
LATE... THEY  
RE-ENTERED  
THE EARTH'S  
ATMOSPHERE,  
AND SPLASHED  
DOWN IN  
THE ATLANTIC  
OCEAN, A  
THOUSAND  
MILES FROM  
THE COAST...



AND THEN, AS THEY SANK INTO THE  
DEPTHS, HE BECAME AWARE OF IT...  
OF IT GROWING IN HIM!

WHAT... WHAT'S  
HAPPENING TO  
ME...? I  
FEEL...

YOU TOO! OH,  
DARLING! I'M SO  
GLAD... NOW YOU  
KNOW WHY!



YES... I KNOW WHY YOU CHANGED COURSE... I KNOW WHY IT DIDN'T HAPPEN TO US BEFORE... LIKE THE OTHERS...

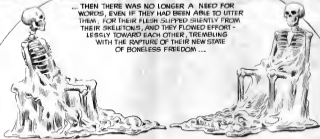
YES! IT WANTED US TO RETURN TO EARTH, TO BRING PEACE AND LOVE TO ANOTHER SYSTEM...

FOR IT IS INTELLIGENT, IN FACT OMNISCIENT, IT HAS BEEN IN US ALL THE TIME, WAITING... AND NOW IT IS TIME...

YES! THERE WILL BE A NEW LIFE, A BETTER ONE, FOR THIS WHOLE PLANET OF UNHAPPY SICK, MURDEROUS VERTEBRATES!



... THEN THERE WAS NO LONGER A NEED FOR WORDS, EVEN IF THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO UTTER THEM, FOR THEIR FLESH SLIPPED SILENTLY FROM THEIR SKELETONS, AND THEY FLOWED EFFORTLESSLY TOWARD EACH OTHER, TREMBLING WITH THE RAPTURE OF THEIR NEW STATE OF BONELESS FREEDOM ...



... AND MERGED, AND THEN IT WAS COMPLETE AND IN TOUCH WITH THE COSMIC ALL... SEPARATE, YET *ONE* WITH ITS MILLIONS OF COMPONENTS ON MILLIONS OF WORLDS...



IT PAUSED A MOMENT, REALIZING AND INTEGRATING ITS POWER, AND THEN, IMMORTAL AND ALL-KNOWING, IT SLITHERED HAPPILY TO THE LOCK AND WAS GONE TO DO GOOD, TO BRING OTHERS INTO THE HARMONY...



*WELL!* BET YOU DIDN'T EXPECT A *HAPPY ENDING*... *WHAT?!* YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S A *HAPPY ENDING*? JUST *WAIT*... WAIT UNTIL YOU JOIN IN THE BLISS OF *TOTAL TOGETHERNESS*... FOR *THE COSMIC ALL IS COMING!*



**A** VAST, ME HEARTY- HORRORS! HOW ABOUT A LITTLE SEA VOYAGE TO SHIVER YOUR TIMBERS? WITH ME AS YOUR MONSTER MATE, WE'RE GOING TO CRUISE THE CARIBBEAN ON THE LUXURY YACHT OF REGGIE BEARDSLEY, WHO'S SOMETHING OF A MONSTER HIMSELF... REGGIE GETS A TASTE OF HORROR, THOUGH, IN FACT HE GETS TO...

# DRINK DEEP!

IS THIS THE SHIP  
GOLDEN GALLEON?

RIGHT! YOU MUST BE THE CREW  
SENT BY THE MARITIME POST...  
TOOK THEM LONG ENOUGH  
TO GET YOU HERE!

MOTLEY LOT! WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT IN A  
SLEAZY FIFTH-RATE PORT! CAN'T AFFORD TO  
BE CHOOSY UNTIL WE'RE BACK IN THE STATES!

CREWS DID NOT COME EASY FOR REGGIE BEARDSLEY'S **GOLDEN GALLEON**... HE HAD A REPUTATION IN PORTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD... REGGIE'S WEALTH WAS EXCEEDED ONLY BY ONE THING... **HIS CRUELTY!**



HE HAD WASTED NO TIME AT THE OUTSET OF HIS CARIBBEAN CRUISE. TO PROVE HIS REPUTATION WAS WELL-EARNED AND EARNESTLY MAINTAINED...



ONLY ONE OTHER THING ABOARD SHIP PROVIDED REGGIE WITH AS MUCH PLEASURE AS HARRASSING AND GOADING THE CREW...



WHICH IS ONLY FITTING... AFTER ALL, OUR FAMILY FORTUNE WAS FOUNDED BY A PIRATE... **BLACK BEARDSLEY!** ABOUT TWO CENTURIES AGO, HE WAS THE SCOURGE OF THE CARIBBEAN...



AT 'EM, ME HEARTIES! CUT 'EM DOWN TO THE LAST MAN, THEN SCUTTLE THE TUB!



'AT'S MY BULLY BOYS... GET IT ALL ABOARD! THEY'LL HAVE NO USE FOR ANY OF IT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA!



A DOZEN MORE SHIP... A FEW HUNDRED MORE LIVES... I'LL HAVE ME A MOUNTAIN OF GOLD! HAR, HAR!



**B**UT MY ANCESTOR WAS CRAFTY... WHEN HE HAD A YOUNG FORT KNOX PILED UP, HE 'RETIRED' FROM PRACY AND BECAME 'RESPECTABLE'...



SIGH! YOUR BUSINESS IS BANKRUPT SO YOU'RE FORCED TO SELL OUT TO ME... FOR A GENEROUS PRICE!

GENEROUS? YOU'RE A -A PIRATE, MR. BEARDSLEY!





**THE NEXT DAY, THE GOLDEN GALLEON PUT INTO A SMALL CARIBBEAN PORT FOR SUPPLIES...**



**N**OW, REGGIE HAD FOUND A NEW CREW, PROVING THAT EVEN IN A SMALL OUT OF THE WAY PORT, HIS GOLD COULD NOT BE IGNORED... AND, DESPITE THEIR APPEARANCE, THE NEW MEN SEEMED EFFICIENT...



...SO THAT UNDER THE MIST  
ENSHROUDED FULL MOON,  
THE *GOLDEN BALLEEN* ONCE  
MORE WENT TO SEA...



FINALLY, WE'RE ON OUR  
WAY! HERE'S THE COURSE  
I WANT YOU TO FOLLOW.



LORD KNOWS WHAT KIND OF EXPERIENCE  
YOU'VE HAD... THINK YOU CAN FOLLOW  
THIS?

AYE, SIR... I KNOW  
THESE WATERS WELL!

**B**Y SUNSET OF THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE YACHT HAD REACHED A POINT ON THE COMPASS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO REGGIE...



EVERYONE! UP ON DECK!  
I'VE GOT A REAL PIRATE  
STORY FOR YOU!



THIS IS IT! ACCORDING TO BLACK  
BEARDSLEY'S LOG THIS IS WHERE  
HE SANK HIS LAST CARGO SHIP  
AND MADE HIS BIGGEST HAUL!

"IT WAS A GOLD-LADEN TREASURE GALLEON...BLACK BEARDSLEY SENT IT TO THE BOTTOM WITH ALL HANDS ABOARD...*STILL ALIVE!*"



"TIED THEM IN THE HOLD SO THEY'D ALL DROWN AS THE SHIP SETTLED INTO THE SEABOTTOM MUD!"



EVEN AS REGGIE ENTERTAINED HIS GUESTS WITH THE DOINGS OF HIS ANCESTOR, A STRANGE TREMOR WAS RUNNING THROUGH THE ROTTING TIMBERS OF THE ANCIENT HULK. MANY FANTHOMS BELOW...CAUSING IT TO SHUDDER, SILENTLY AND BREAK FREE OF ITS BARNACLED GRIVE!



WITH A SLOW SURENESS THE DETERIORATING SHELL OF A ONCE HANDSOME GALLEON SAILED UPWARD ON THE DARK UNDERWATER CURRENTS AS IT HAD CENTURIES BEFORE ON THE HIGH WINDS OF THE CARIBBEAN, UNTIL ITS MOSS-COATED HULL SCRAPED AGAINST THE MODERN SLEEKNESS OF REGGIE'S YACHT...



...AND IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT...



**A**N EERIE LIGHT FILLED THE CABIN AS SOME-  
TIMES COMES FROM OBJECTS UNDERWATER.  
FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME, AND SUDDENLY  
REGGIE KNEW WHY HIS OLD CREW HAD BEEN  
SO EASILY REPLACED!



HANDS OF DEADLY COLDNESS AND SALT-  
WATER DAMP HAULED HIM ON DECK TO A  
SCENE OF FRANTIC BUT UNHUMANLY  
SILENT ACTIVITY...

**THE FITTINGS! LEAVE THEM ALONE! ALL  
THIS GOLD IS MINE! THEY BELONG ON  
MY SHIP... HERE! ON THE  
GOLDEN GALLEON!**



SUDDENLY HE, LIKE EVERY ORNAMENT OF  
BEARDSLEY GOLD ABOARD, WAS BEING  
TRANSPORTED TO THE SLIMEY DECK OF  
THE SPECTRE SHIP!

**NO! YOU CAN'T  
PUT ME ON THAT  
OLD WRECK!**

**PLEASE! IT'S GOING  
TO SINK! PLEASE!**



**A**ND, AS HE HAD ALWAYS INSISTED ON BEING  
ABOARD HIS OWN YACHT, AGAIN, REGGIE  
WAS RIGHT!

**NO! NO! I'LL DROWN!  
I'LL DRO-- EEEAAA...  
GLUB!**



**O**NCE MORE THE ANCIENT HULL SETTLED INTO ITS RESTING  
PLACE OF MUD AND SAND AT THE OCEAN BOTTOM... ITS  
HOLD AGAIN FILLED WITH GOLD SO LONG AGO REMOVED...  
ITS ONE NEW PASSENGER LOOKING, WITH DROWNED EYES  
THAT WILL STARE FOREVER, AT THE NAME NOT YET FADED  
FROM THE OLD SHIP'S PROW...



HEE, HEE... I KNEW THAT  
REGGIE WAS **ALL WET!**  
HOPE IT DOESN'T **DAMPEN**  
HIS SPIRIT TOO MUCH... OH  
WELL, IF REGGIE WASN'T  
**SPOILED ROTTEN** BEFORE,  
I GUESS HE  
SOON WILL BE!



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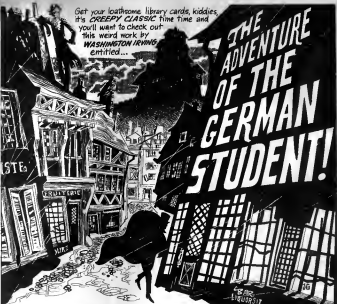
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# THE ADVENTURE OF THE GERMAN STUDENT!



THE LIGHTNING-CLEARED AND LOUD CLAPS OF THUNDER RATTLED THROUGH THE LOFTY NARROW STREETS OF PARIS'S OLD SECTION...A CLOAKED FIGURE BENT INTO THE LASHING TORRENT, SCURRYING OVER THE PUDDLED COBBLESTONE TOWARD THE SOLITARY GLOW OF A TAVERN LIGHT...

GOOD EVENING, MONSIEUR!  
A TERRIBLE STORM...I HOPE  
YOU DIDN'T COME FAR!

NOT FAR...ONLY  
UP THE STREET,  
A COGNAC, PLEASE!

UP THE STREET? BUT THE  
ONLY THING UP THE  
STREET IS THE...THE...

...THE  
ASYLUM!



FORGIVE MY CURIOSITY,  
MONSIEUR, BUT WHAT  
POSSESSES A MAN TO  
VISIT THE MADHOUSE ON  
A NIGHT SUCH AS THIS?

WHAT POSSESSES  
A MAN...?

WHY DO YOU ASK  
THAT? WHAT DO  
YOU KNOW OF  
*POSSESSION*  
OF MEN?

N-NOthing, MONSIEUR  
... A CHANCE CHOICE  
OF WORDS... I...

NOthing? THEN PER-  
HAPS YOU MIGHT BE  
INTERESTED IN A STORY  
I HEARD TONIGHT...

I'M A MEDICAL EXAMINER. OFFICIAL  
DUTIES BROUGHT ME TO THE ASYLUM...  
THAT'S WHERE I LEARNED ABOUT A YOUNG  
GERMAN... A STUDENT... **GOTTFRIED  
WOLFGANG...**



A YOUNG MAN OF GOOD FAMILY, HE STUDIED FOR SOME TIME AT GOTTINGEN, BUT BEING OF AN  
IMAGINATIVE AND OVERWROUGHT CHARACTER, HE WANDERED INTO WILD AND SPECULATIVE DOCTRINES  
...EVENTUALLY TAKING UP THE NOTION THAT THERE WAS AN EVIL INFLUENCE HANGING OVER HIM, AN EVIL  
SPIRIT SEEKING TO ENSNARE HIM AND ENSURE HIS PERDITION...

HIS FRIENDS DISCOVERED THE MENTAL MALADY PREYING UPON HIM AND DETERMINED THE BEST CURE WAS TO FINISH HIS STUDIES AMID THE SPLENDORS AND GAITIES OF PARIS...BUT WOLFGANG ARRIVED AT THE OUT-BREAK OF THE REVOLUTION AND THE SCENES OF BLOOD WHICH FOLLOWED SHOCKED HIS SENSITIVE NATURE, DISGUSTED HIM WITH SOCIETY AND THE WORLD...



HE RETREATED TO GLOOMY INTROSPECTION AND PURSUING HIS MORBID THEORIES IN THE GREAT PARIS LIBRARIES, QUESTING AFTER FOOD FOR HIS UNHEALTHY APPETITE, BECOMING A LITERARY GHoul FEEDING IN THE CHARNEL HOUSE OF DEAD LITERATURE...



TOO SHY TO APPROACH GIRLS, HIS ARDENT NATURE THRUST A LOVELY BUT HAUNTING VISION UPON HIM...A FACE OF TRANSCENDENT BEAUTY THAT FILLED HIS DREAMS OVER AND OVER...A SHADOW WHICH BECAME ONE OF THESE FIXED IDEAS THAT HAUNT THE MINDS OF MELANCHOLY MEN AND IS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR MADNESS!

SUCH WAS GOTTFRIED WOLFGANG'S SITUATION WHEN, LATE ONE STORMY NIGHT, HE WAS RETURNING HOME THROUGH SOME OF THE GLOOMY OLD STREETS OF THE MARAIS, AN ANCIENT PART OF THE CITY...



HIS HEART SICKENED WITHIN HIM, AND WOLFGANG WAS TURNING SHUDDERING FROM THE HORRIBLE SIGHT, WHEN HE GUMPSSED A SHADOWY FORM COWERING AT THE FOOT OF THE STEPS WHICH LED UP TO THE SCAFFOLD...



A SUCCESSION OF VIVID LIGHTNING FLASHES REVEALED THE CROUCHING FORM MORE CLEARLY AS WOLFGANG STUMBLED FORWARD IN WONDER... THE BRIGHT GLARE ILLUMINATED THE UPRaised FACE, THE VERY FACE WHICH HAUNTED HIM IN HIS DREAMS... WILD-EYED PALE AND DISCONSOLATE, BUT RAVISHINGLY BEAUTIFUL!



GOTTFRIED KNEW THESE WERE TERRIBLE TIMES... THE GILLOTINE LEFT MANY MOURNERS... MANY DESOLATE AND ALONE...

YOUR PARDON, MISS... IS... IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

DOP IT'S TOO LATE FOR ANYTHING TO BE DONE!

IT'S SUCH A LATE HOUR, THE STORM SO TERRIBLE... AREN'T THERE FRIENDS I CAN TAKE YOU TO?

T-THIS... HAS LEFT ME NO FRIENDS ON EARTH!

THE HEART OF THE STUDENT MELTED AT HER WORDS...

B-BUT... YOU MUST HAVE A HOME.

I HAVE NOTHING! THE ONLY PLACE LEFT ME IS THE GRAVE!

YOU MUST LET ME OFFER SHELTER; MYSELF AS A DEVOTED FRIEND... I AM FRIENDLESS MYSELF, A STRANGER IN PARIS... ALL I HAVE IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL!

THERE WAS AN HONEST EARNESTNESS IN THE YOUNG MAN'S MANNER THAT HAD ITS EFFECT. THE HOMELESS GIRL CONFIDED HERSELF IMPLICITLY TO THE PROTECTION OF THE STUDENT, AND WOLFGANG CONDUCTED HIS CHARGE THROUGH THE ANCIENT STREETS, PAST THE SORBONNE... TO THE GREAT DINGY HOTEL WHERE HE LIVED...

I MUST APOLOGIZE... IT IS QUITE SMALL, WITHOUT ELEGANCE... NATURALLY, IT IS MY INTENTION TO MOVE OUT, LEAVE IT FOR YOU AND... AND...

THE GIRL'S PRESENCE OVERWHELMED HIM, SEEMED TO PUT A SPELL ON HIS THOUGHTS AND SENSES... IN THE INFATUATION OF THE MOMENT, WOLFGANG AWOKE HIS PASSION FOR HER, TOLD THE STORY OF HIS MYSTERIOUS DREAM, AND HOW SHE POSSESSED HIS HEART BEFORE HE HAD EVEN SEEN HER...

WHY SHOULD WE SEPARATE? YOU'VE NO HOME, NO FAMILY... LET ME BE EVERY THING... I'LL PLEDGE MYSELF TO YOU...

FOREVER!

I... I'M GLAD YOU TOLD ME, GOTTFRIED... IT'S WONDERFUL TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT!

FOREVER!

... THEN I AM YOURS!

THE NEXT MORNING WOLFGANG LEFT THE GIRL SLEEPING AND SALLIED FORTH AT AN EARLY HOUR, TO SEEK MORE SPACIOUS APARTMENTS SUITABLE TO THE NEW SITUATION. HE RETURNED TO FIND HER IN AN UNEASY POSTURE, HER FACE PALLED AND GHASTLY...

DARLING? DARLING? OH, NO... NOOOOOOO!

... IN A WORD, SHE WAS A CORPSE!

HORRIFIED AND FRANTIC, HE ALARMED THE HOUSE, A SENSE OF CONFUSION ENSUED THE POLICE WERE SUMMONED



AS THE OFFICER IN CHARGE ENTERED THE ROOM, HE STARTED BACK ON BEHOLDING THE CORPSE...



MON DIEU! HOW DID THIS WOMAN COME HERE?

YOU... YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT HER?



I KNOW, MONSIEUR, SHE WAS **GUILLOTINED** YESTERDAY!

NO... NO... IT CAN'T BE...



EVEN AS THE YOUNG STUDENT SPROKE, THE OFFICER BENT FORWARD, UNDOING THE BLACK COLLAR AROUND THE NECK OF THE CORPSE AND...

THEY TRIED TO SOOTHE HIM, BUT IN VAIN. HE WAS POSSESSED WITH THE FRIGHTFUL BELIEF THAT AN EVIL SPIRIT HAD REANIMATED THE DEAD BODY TO ENSNARE HIM...A BELIEF WHICH PERSISTED INTO THE MAD HOUSE!

THE FIEND! THE FIEND HAS GAINED POSSESSION OF ME! I'M LOST FOREVER!



SURELY, MONSIEUR, AN EDUCATED MAN LIKE YOURSELF DOES NOT BELIEVE SUCH A TALE... OBVIOUSLY THE STUDENT IN HIS MADNESS ROBBED A GRAVE TO OBTAIN THE CORPSE!



PERHAPS, WE SHALL NEVER KNOW. I WAS SENT FOR BECAUSE GOTTFRIED WOLFGANG DIED TONIGHT. I MADE OUT THE CERTIFICATE...

AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES...



HEART FAILURE, DEAD WHEN THE STAFF FOUND HIM IN HIS SOLITARY CELL. HE'D BEEN SCREAMING ALL EVENING, MORE VIOLENTLY THAN USUAL. INSISTED THEY SAVE HIM FROM BEING POSSESSED, TAKEN BY THE FIEND!

HIS OWN MAD FEARS BURST HIS HEART, SO I WOULD THINK... NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, EH, MONSIEUR EXAMINER?



PRACTICALLY NOTHING...ONLY THIS BESIDE HIS CORPSE!



WELL, NO MATTER, MATTER ~~HADN'T~~ POSSESSED YOUNG WOLFGANG TO GET INVOLVED, HE'S SHOULD BE FLATTERED TO HAVE A GIRL LOSE HER HEAD OVER HIM THAT WAY!

# SPECIAL ISSUE



# CREEPY